

Dear Neighbor,

As we begin this legislative session, it is imperative that we stay in touch. As your representative, it is my job to voice your concerns before our legislature. I am proud to be part of the 43<sup>rd</sup> District, where we oppose hateful legislation and where we work for progress. I am proud to represent you with Senator Pat Thibaudeau and Representative Frank Chopp, and although it is tough being in the minority, we do make progress.

I was recently invited by President Clinton to a White House conference on hate crimes. During my visit to our nation's capital, I had the privilege of visiting both the Holocaust Museum and the new memorial to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. My visit to the Holocaust Museum provided me with a tremendous lesson. It was a grim reminder of what happens when government is run by hate and fear. By contrast, the Roosevelt Memorial was a real symbol of what government can do to improve the lives of its citizens, to guarantee their freedoms and to bring people together.

I go to Olympia this session with renewed vigor. I go with vigor to defend the rights of every one of our citizens. I go with vigor to provide real solutions to our state's problems, so that all of our citizens may share in our state's prosperity. I hope you will join me in this cause. Please contact me at any time with comments, concerns and questions. My new legislative assistant, James Anderson, will be working hard to help me during session in Olympia and in our district during the interim. We work for you, and we will be available to you always.

Sincerely,



Representative  
**Ed Murray**

P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



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## 1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION PRE-SESSION REPORT

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**EdMurray**  
State Representative  
District 43 ★ Democrat

## 1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION PRE-SESSION REPORT



### Contact Information

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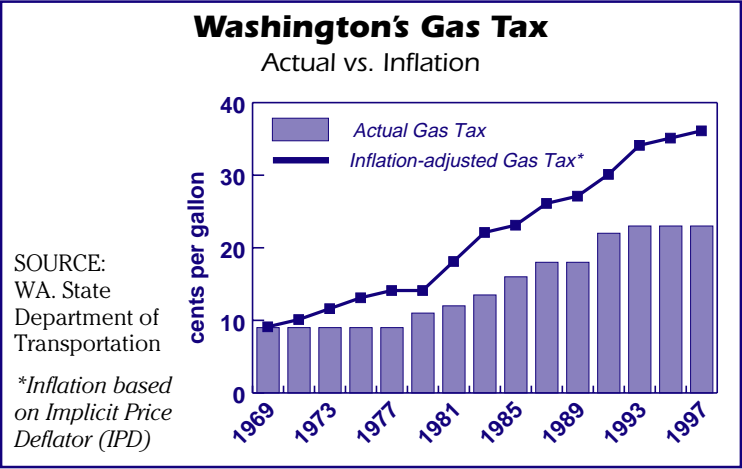
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# TRANSPORTATION

According to recent studies, our state’s population is expected to grow by over 2 million people by the year 2020. This highlights a growing transportation crisis in our state. Washington ports currently enjoy a one-day shipping advantage over other west coast ports, but we are losing it due to traffic congestion. Our region also loses an estimated \$1.3 billion annually in lost time and wasted fuel. At present, neither local governments nor the state can finance our growing transportation needs. We must consider a gas tax increase.



## Local Issues

### Eastlake Noise Abatement

In December, I met with leaders of the Eastlake and Portage Bay communities to discuss the serious noise problems created by Interstate 5. This problem exists statewide, and I will be proposing a financing package designed to address both noise and pollution impacts on our neighborhoods.

### SR 520 / Trans-Lake Washington Study

I have been working with various stakeholders to find a solution to address growing traffic demands on SR 520 without creating additional strain on our neighborhoods. Working with communities on both sides of the lake and with legislators on both sides of the aisle, I am confident that we can meet growing demand while protecting our neighborhoods.

# CIVIL RIGHTS

Unfortunately, the majority party has promised to continue its attacks on our civil rights. We must do everything we can to promote equality. As President Thomas Jefferson once said, “eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.”



## Statewide Issues

### Affirmative Action

Affirmative action is not about minority benefits or quotas, it is about providing opportunity to individuals who may not otherwise have them. Thanks to Affirmative Action, many women are able to break through the “glass ceiling.” This idea has been lost on the majority party. They have endorsed efforts in this state to eliminate our affirmative action programs. I will oppose those efforts in the legislature.

### Same-Sex Marriage

As perhaps the ugliest part of the majority party’s social agenda, they see it necessary to single out one group of people for attack. Once again, certain legislators have promised to pursue legislation outlawing same-sex marriage despite the fact that it is already illegal. I will oppose this act; it is hateful and unnecessary.

## Local Issue

### Threats to the University of Washington

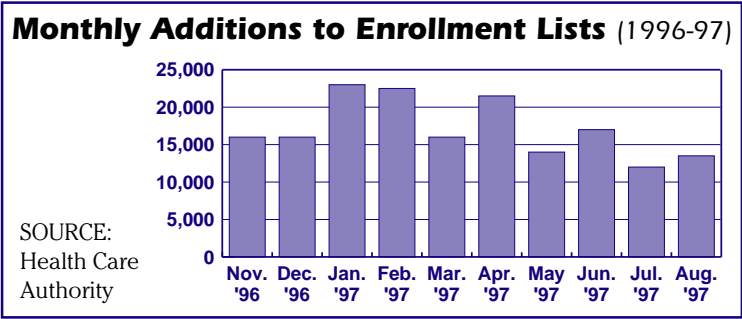
Legislators in the majority party have indicated a desire to punish the University of Washington for expanding family benefits to include registered domestic partners. This is an issue where students decided how to spend their own dollars. For a party that champions local control, this threat to the UW is most hypocritical. I will work in Olympia to make sure that the UW is not punished for acting in the name of fairness.

# HEALTH CARE

In 1993, the legislature passed the historic Health Services Act. It was a significant step towards insuring every Washingtonian for basic health care. Unfortunately, that progress turned to regress after 1995, when the majority party began its assault on health care reform. After two years of gutting, the Basic Health Plan is woefully inadequate, and it is hurting our state’s working families the most. I will work to reverse this trend because I believe that every Washingtonian deserves access to basic health care.

### The Basic Health Plan (BHP)

The passage of the Health Services Act in 1993 was the culmination of years of discussion, research and planning. It propelled our state to a position of national leadership in the area of health care. Despite their promises in 1995 to expand BHP to provide subsidized coverage for an additional 200,000 people, the majority party has severely gutted the program. Their promise remains unfulfilled, and 600,000 of our citizens remain without the most basic health coverage. Governor Locke has proposed expanding BHP to include a total of 138,000 citizens, and it is a step in the right direction. However, it still does not meet the needs of our state. We must continue to work on expanding health care until every Washingtonian has reasonable access to health care.



### Expanding Coverage for Our Children

Unfortunately, over 90,000 children in Washington State who are eligible for Medicaid insurance have not enrolled in the program. Medicaid provides free, comprehensive insurance to all children living in families with incomes under 200 percent of the federal poverty level. We have to let our working families know this program exists, so they may protect their children. I will work to have information regarding this program provided to children at every school in our state. We cannot let such a wonderful program die due to a lack of demand.